



ACTION TEAM QUARTERLY UPDATE Winter 2015

Northern Kentucky is working collectively to develop and implement effective, innovative strategies that will ensure all youth are ready for college, career and life. The six volunteer Action Teams of the Council facilitate the strategic alignment of educational initiatives and programs that help accomplish regional education goals. Through these teams, education, business and community leaders are working together on measurable strategies that address needs along the pipeline from birth to career.

Action Team 1: Reducing Barriers to Student Learning

Regional Goal: NKY will ensure successful transition for every child and student along the continuum from birth through career

Co-Chairs: Leshia Lyman, United Way Greater Cincinnati/NKY

Dr. Shelli Wilson, Campbell County School District

Kindergarten Readiness Subcommittee *United Way of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky;*
Amanda Greenwell

- Encouraged policy reform impacting access to quality early childhood opportunities through advocacy by Pre-K Works partners, 187 three and four-year olds are being served through Erlanger-Elsmere's Pre-K Works demonstration site (surpassing goal of 160).
- On November 18 6 NKY school districts attended the statewide Readiness Summit hosted by the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood.
- Developed Bornlearning Communities Pilot to create a pathway to the school-based program by reducing barriers and meeting families in natural communities; pilot will begin in City Heights during the Summer 2016.
- Born Learning® Academies will be expanded across the state in the 2016-17 school year to include 70 new Academies. Applications were sent to all Family Youth Resource Coordinators.
- *Me and My School* served 228 children in 11 elementary schools across 5 districts; 2016 goal is to serve 300 children and expand the program to 3 new districts.
- The Urban Core Collaborative includes the six River Cities and Erlanger; members identified common themes for strategies related to Parent Engagement, Transitions, Literacy, Food, Newborn, Social/Emotional, Health, Pre-K Screening and Professional Development.
- Implementing a Bornlearning Parent Leader Pilot in Covington to train parents and bring in working with their neighbors through a door-to-door model.

Attendance Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Mary Burch, Erlanger- Elsmere Independent School District and Monica Remmy

- Partnered with identified elementary schools to promote the importance of attendance through targeted messaging and usage of materials from Attendance Works webinars.
- Identified data for partner schools to collect to measure progress on reducing chronic absenteeism; partner schools will use data during end-of-year facilitated discussion on key strategies to improve attendance.
- Developing magnet design for potential production and distribution to partner school families.

Summer Learning Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Tammy Weidinger, Brighton Center and Heather Dragan, Dayton Independent School District

- Compiled and created the 2015-16 Northern Kentucky Summer Learning Resource Guide.
- Convened schools and partner organizations for a presentation and facilitated discussion on summer learning at Thomas More College to identify needs for increasing quality summer learning experiences in region.

Social-Emotional Wellness Subcommittee Co-chairs: Dr. Brett Zyromski, NKU, Connie Pohlgeers and Dr. Shelli Wilson, Campbell County School District

- Convened school districts who previously participated in Gallup Student Poll to discuss implementing a new tool to measure hope, engagement and well-being.
- Core team met with Dr. Richard Gilman (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center) to identify a nationally-normed measure for the assessment of the social-emotional wellness of Northern Kentucky students. Hope, Engagement and Well-being constructs will be measured. Logistics and timeline for implementation are being determined.

Action Team 2: College and Career Readiness

Regional Goal: Academic rigor and relevance of the curricula in NKY P-20 schools will meet student educational career goals and employment needs in the community.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Karen Cheser, Boone County School District

Dr. Christy Petroze, Thomas More College

- Increased the number of FIRST LEGO League teams to 48 NKY teams who participated in the 2015 NKY regional robotics tournament, further strengthening the STEAM talent pipeline.
- Created a STEAM asset map survey to be distributed to Northern Kentucky schools and non-profit organizations for data collection on programs related to STEAM.
- Participated in a conversation on Kentucky Unbridled Careers to consider how this tool can help increase student career exploration and internships, as well as business engagement in schools.
- Planning for the third annual EdCampNKY, which will be held on March 26, 2016; over 200 tickets have already been reserved.
- Promoted the KY FAME program with colleagues to encourage high school student enrollment in the program before the December 31 deadline.
- Continued discussions on how to better promote early college/dual credit programs at local high schools.

Action Team 3: Educator Excellence

Regional Goal: Educators in NKY meet or exceed national standards for educator excellence.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District

Dr. Jen Stansbury Koenig, Northern Kentucky University

- Held meeting to consider how to align Action Team 3 activities with the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services and the NKU Center for Education Excellence
- Met to discuss current initiatives related to the Center for Education Excellence, as well as to determine how to best encourage participation in professional learning communities and established networks, potentially using Coffee Cues model to help practitioners determine areas of interest/need

Action Team 4: Education Accessibility and Lifelong Learning

Regional Education Goal: NKY has system and outreach programs to make educational opportunities available, accessible and affordable to every community member, no matter what age.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Vicki Berling, Northern Kentucky University

David Schroeder, Kenton County Public Library

- On October 6 hosted Dr. Marty Burns to present “Path out of Poverty” in partnership with Boone County School District.
- Used feedback from presentation to gain new action team members, One to One coaches and future poverty simulation participants.
- Began development of action toolkits on poverty for schools, businesses and community organizations.
- Met with Dayton Superintendent to identify strategies for addressing barriers to post-secondary educational attainment through a pilot asset mapping process; discussed timeline of process and key leaders to engage in process

Action Team 5: Business Involvement and Service Learning

Regional Goal: NKY is recognized for culture of contribution, through service learning in schools and full engagement of business community in schools.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Ray Hebert, Thomas More College

Dr. Jean Loftus, Loftus Surgery

- Began revision of *Be the Catalyst Toolkit* overview for use by area businesses.
- Initiated Work Ethic Diploma revision to increase its relevancy to the skills required by the current workforce. Planning to launch re-branded Work Ethic Diploma for 2016-17 school year. Consideration is being given on how to better incorporate business engagement toolkit programs into Work Ethic Diploma, as well as career experiences for students.
- Identified schools for business engagement tours and began planning process for Spring 2016 tours.

Action Team 6: Advocacy

Regional Goal: All education institutions in NKY have the financial resources and program alignment necessary to support the needs of the region.

*Co-Chairs: Dr. Anthony Strong, Pendleton County School District
Mike Hammons, Children, Inc.*

- Developed the 2016 NKEAT Legislative Agenda Summary
- Formed smaller legislative advocacy groups to increase communications with elected officials.
- Hosted presentations on school choice and pension reform.
- Held the first NKEAT Legislative Cocktail Reception sponsored by Central Bank.



The Northern KY Education Council is an agency partner of UWGC. NKY is a Ready by 21 Community.